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Sen. Gilbert's resolution asking for real-time water monitoring clears Senate

LANSING – Sen. Jud Gilbert's resolution urging assistance with the development of a pilot project to provide real-time monitoring of water quality for Lake St. Clair and the St. Clair River was adopted by the Senate today.

The resolution urges the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality and the Office of the Great Lakes to work with the EPA Great Lakes National Program Office to implement the project.

"In order to provide for the safety of our residents, the feasibility of a real-time monitoring system must be examined and tested," said Gilbert, R-Algonac. "In addition to other potential sources, we hope there are programs at the federal level that can help support a project of this magnitude."

Hundreds of chemical spills have occurred in the St. Clair River since 1986, putting residents and the environment in danger of being contaminated by harmful substances.

The current notification procedures have been shown to be too slow and unreliable, especially for residents who live quite a distance downstream from Chemical Valley.

Developing a real-time monitoring system at strategic locations along the St. Clair River and Lake St. Clair would provide a higher level of protection against chemical threats. A monitoring system also could be used in the future to benefit other vulnerable areas of our state and the Great Lakes network.

"With the number of water intake facilities along the river and lake, it seems imperative to develop an additional means of safeguarding citizens to supplement the notification processes that are in place," Gilbert said.

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